



Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí
Cork City Council

Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme
2017–2022



Cork City Council Libraries

Writer in Residence opportunity 2020/2021

Engaging with a changing world through creativity

The challenges of climate change impact every community and every institution or service, including the library service.

Cork city centre is built on what was once a marsh – *Corcach Mór na Mumhan*. The potential damage to the city of rising sea levels is self-evident. Many cities of comparable size in Europe are taking the first steps to becoming car-free cities. Cork, with its medieval street patterns, was never made for car travel, and transport policy will be one of the key ways in which citizens will move to a sustainable future.

The newer parts of Cork city – Blarney, Ballincollig, Glanmire, the Douglas hills – offer different challenges and opportunities and a possible new way of living, working, travelling.

When one considers this major challenge, along with the not unrelated impact of Covid-19, it is clear we live in a world which is changing, perhaps more quickly than any of us would wish for.

This residency is an opportunity for a writer to explore these issues in her / his own work, but also an opportunity to engage the public, in particular library users across the city, in a wider debate.

In 2019, The European Commission's Cultural and Creative Cities Monitor ranked Cork City second amongst 79 cities for its 'cultural participation and attractiveness'. Cork, is also leading this European league table through its creative and cultural educational offering. The city emerges second of 79 cities when 'enabling environments' for fostering a cultural and creative education are measured.

Cork City Libraries contribute significantly to the cultural and creative life of the city. The service consists of The City Library in the city centre and 9 branch libraries within the city area. The libraries are central to many of Cork City's festivals. In 2019, 25% of all events for the Lifelong Learning Festival were held in the libraries, 48% of the Cruinniú na nÓg events were organised by the libraries, and 36% of Heritage week events were hosted by Cork City Libraries. Cork City Libraries in association with Triskel Christchurch also organise Cork World Book Festival annually in April and Childrens Book Fest in October.

The Writer in Residence will propose a format to engage communities on climate change and sustainability through writing and contribute to literary festivals in the city. A publication may be part of the engagement process and online platforms should also be considered. The residency is funded by Creative Ireland.

The appointment for Writer in Residence is from October 2020 to May 2021

It is a requirement of the residency that the writer spend at least 10 hours per week working from a Cork City Libraries building.

Residency objectives

To create opportunities for the writer to:

- Provide a writer with a unique opportunity to develop their practice within this setting. They will also be given time to advance his/her own work during the residency
- Engage the public on climate change and sustainability through a creative process
- Promote the awareness of Cork City Council Library Service and its resources, by establishing a dynamic link between Libraries and the community.

It is envisaged that approximately 50% of the time on this residency should be focused on the writer's own work while approximately 50% will be allocated to the public engagement aspect.

In advance of the residency the following will be agreed:

- A programme of work that is flexible and responsive to all stakeholders.
- Clear roles and responsibilities for the writer in residence.
- Child Protection Policy and Garda Vetting
- A structure for the ongoing support of the writer in residence.
- A timetable that balances time for the writer's own work and time for public engagement.
- Ongoing review and evaluation; regular meetings.

It should be noted that this is a part-time residency, which will require flexibility around contact hours.

Fee and budget information

The fee for the residency is €14,000. This amount is to be fully inclusive of fee and expenses including publication. This is funded by Creative Ireland. A separate limited budget for events will be managed by Cork City Libraries.

How to apply

Application is by email only to Patricia Looney, patricia_looney@corkcity.ie

Selection process

Applicants should submit the following:

- Curriculum Vitae
 - Examples of previous work;
 - Publications, programmes or published articles, such as reviews;
 - Typed proposal outlining artistic ideas and approaches (no more than three typed pages); this should include an outline of the benefits of the residency to her/his stage of development as a writer and ideas in relation to public engagement during the residency.
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- **Interviews**
 - Applicants will be short-listed on the basis of their submissions and short-listed applicants may be called for interview during the week of 28 September 2020.

Timeline

Application deadline: September 18, 2020

Start of residency: October 19, 2020

End of residency: May 31, 2021